

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12

SAM-01 IO-10 /076 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3345

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 0007

ABIDJAN FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, SG, US

SUBJ: ANGOLAN TREATMENT IN SENEGAISE MEDIA

SENEGALESE MEDIA COVERAGE OF ANGOLA IS BASED PRIMARILY ON
AFP DISPATCHES. THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE EVIDENCE IN MEDIA OF
STRONG OPPOSITION TO USSR AND MPLA WHICH PRESIDENT SENGHOR
HAS VOICED TO US IN PRIVATE. OFFICIAL SENEGALESE STATEMENTS
ON ITS NEUTRALITY IN ANGOLA, ITS REFUSAL TO RECOGNIZE ANY
INDIVIDUAL MOVEMENT AND ITS SUPPORT FOR UNITED FRONT HAVE BEEN
FACTUALLY REPORTED, BUT THERE HAS ALSO BEEN SUBSTANTIAL AFP-
BASED COVERAGE OF MPLA DIPLOMATIC SUCCESSES. RADIO SENEGAL
NEWSCASTS THIS WEEK HAVE JUXTAPOSED WIRE SERVICE STORIES ON
YOUR VISIT WITH STORIES ORIGINATING IN US ON ALLEGED IN-
VOLVEMENT BY AMERICAN MERCENARIES IN ANGOLA AND ELSEWHERE.
FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS ASSURED US THAT EDITORIAL CONTENT
OF NEWS PROGRAMS IS NOT GOVERNMENT-DIRECTED, BUT WE UNDER-
STAND CONFIDENTIALLY THAT PRESIDENT SENGHOR DID ORDER
MAXIMUM PRESS COVERAGE DURING DECEMBER VISIT BY UNITA/FNLA
FOREIGN MINISTER MARQUES. TV ACCORDINGLY CARRIED SYMPATHETIC
FEATURE INTERVIEW; NUMEROUS VISITS BY SAVIMBI AND
MARQUES TO DAKAR HAVE GENERALLY OCCASIONED EXTENSIVE
AND ACCURATE COVERAGE. MOST REPORTING IN GOVERNMENT-
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CONTROLLED LE SOLEIL HAS BEEN WORK OF MAM LESS DIA, SELF-

PROCLAIMED MPLA PARTISAN WHO VISITED ANGOLA IN SEPTEMBER.
HOWEVER, AFTER OCTOBER INTERVIEW WITH SAVIMBI IN DAKAR, DIA
ACKNOWLEDGED HE FOUND UNITA LEADER'S SINCERITY DISARMING.
DEFINITIVE LE SOLEIL EDITORIAL SEVERAL WEEKS AGO CALLED
ANGOLAN WAR "IDIOTIC," AND PLACED PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY ON
MPLA AND ITS AFRICAN AND FOREIGN SUPPORTERS.
AGGREY

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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